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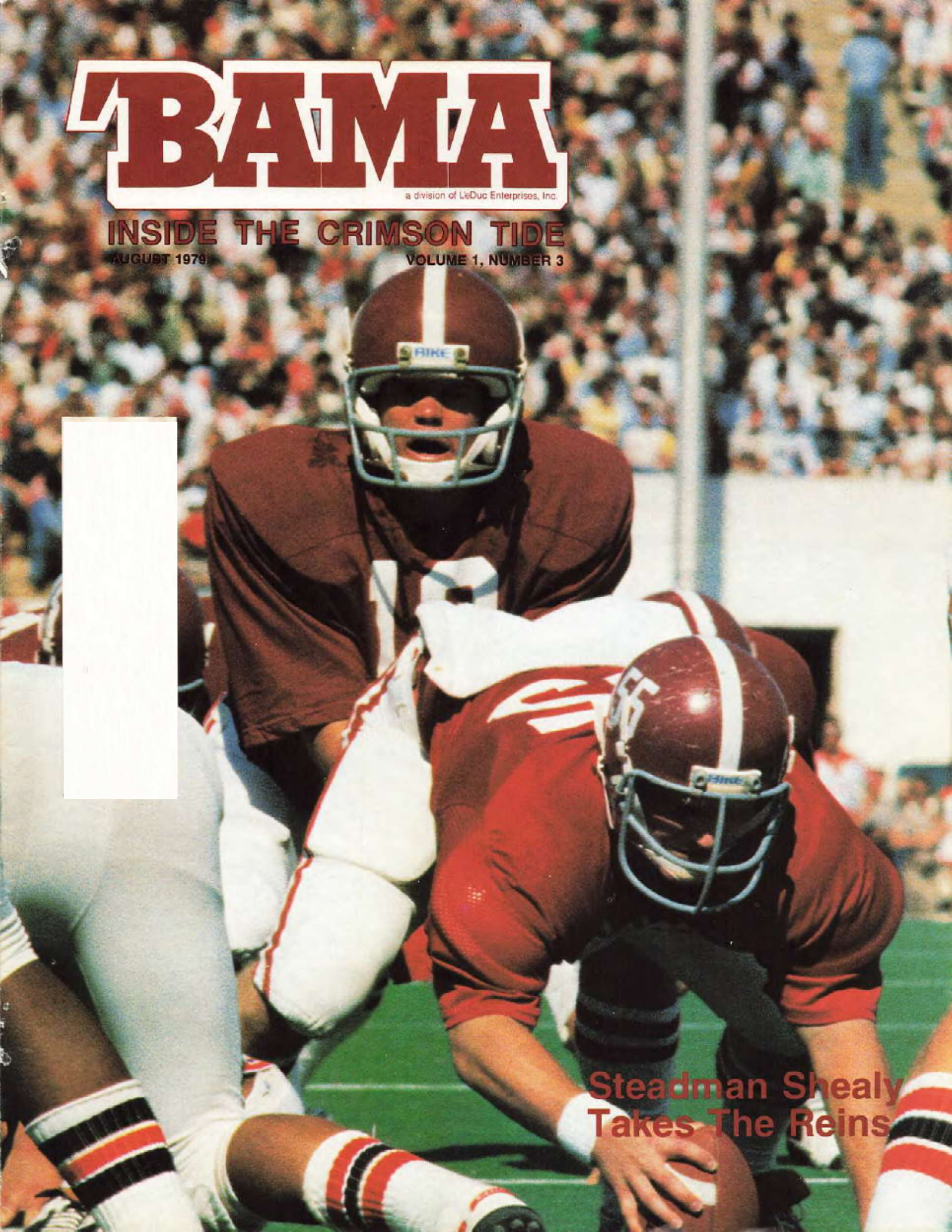
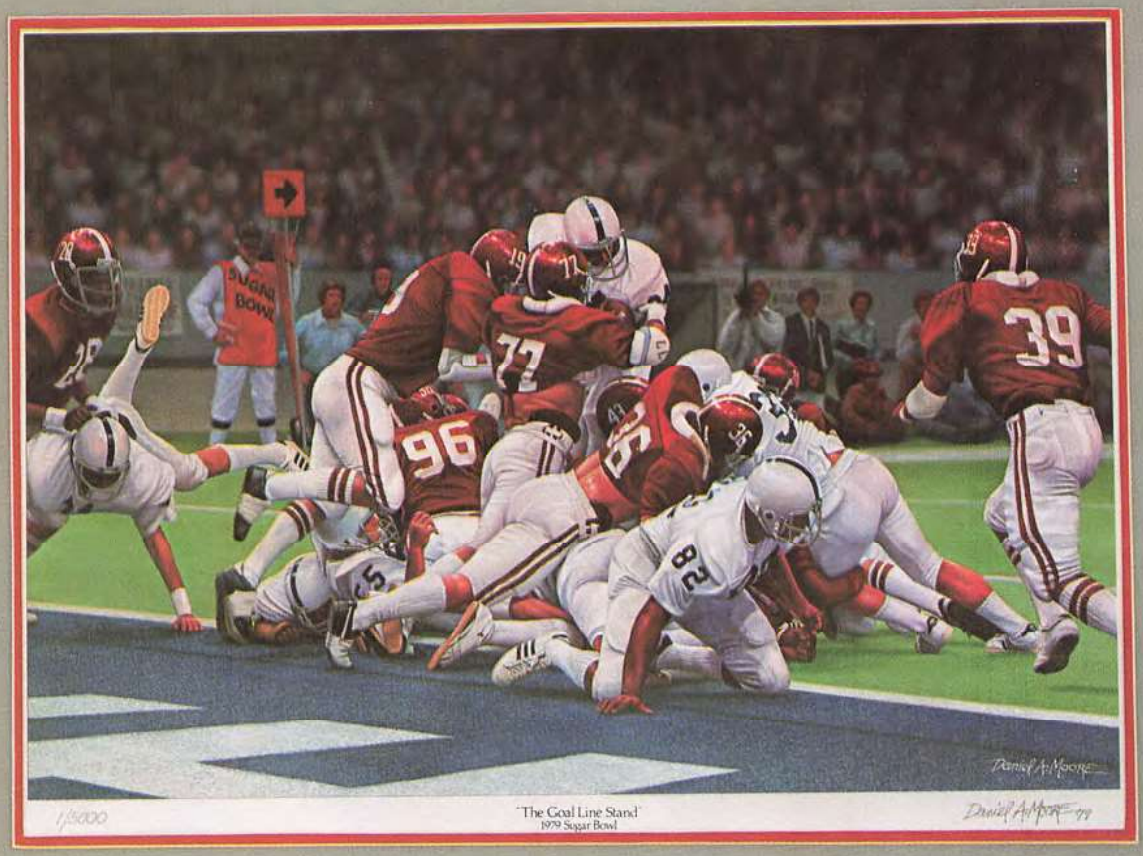
INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

AUGUST 1979 VOLUME 1, NUMBER 3



Steadman Shealy Takes The Reins



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"The Goal Line Stand" is a Limited Edition reproduction print and can be purchased on a first-come basis only. Order your classic today!

The Artist.

A graduate of the University of Alabama in Fine Arts, Daniel Moore focuses mainly on Super-realism– a style of painting that requires dedicated discipline. His work has been exhibited in many competitive art exhibitions and has won numerous awards and honors. Prints of a recent work of his were nationally advertised and sold in all 50 states. An avid Alabama football fan, Mr. Moore has given exceptional effort and months of work to "The Goal Line Stand" — a tribute to his number one team.

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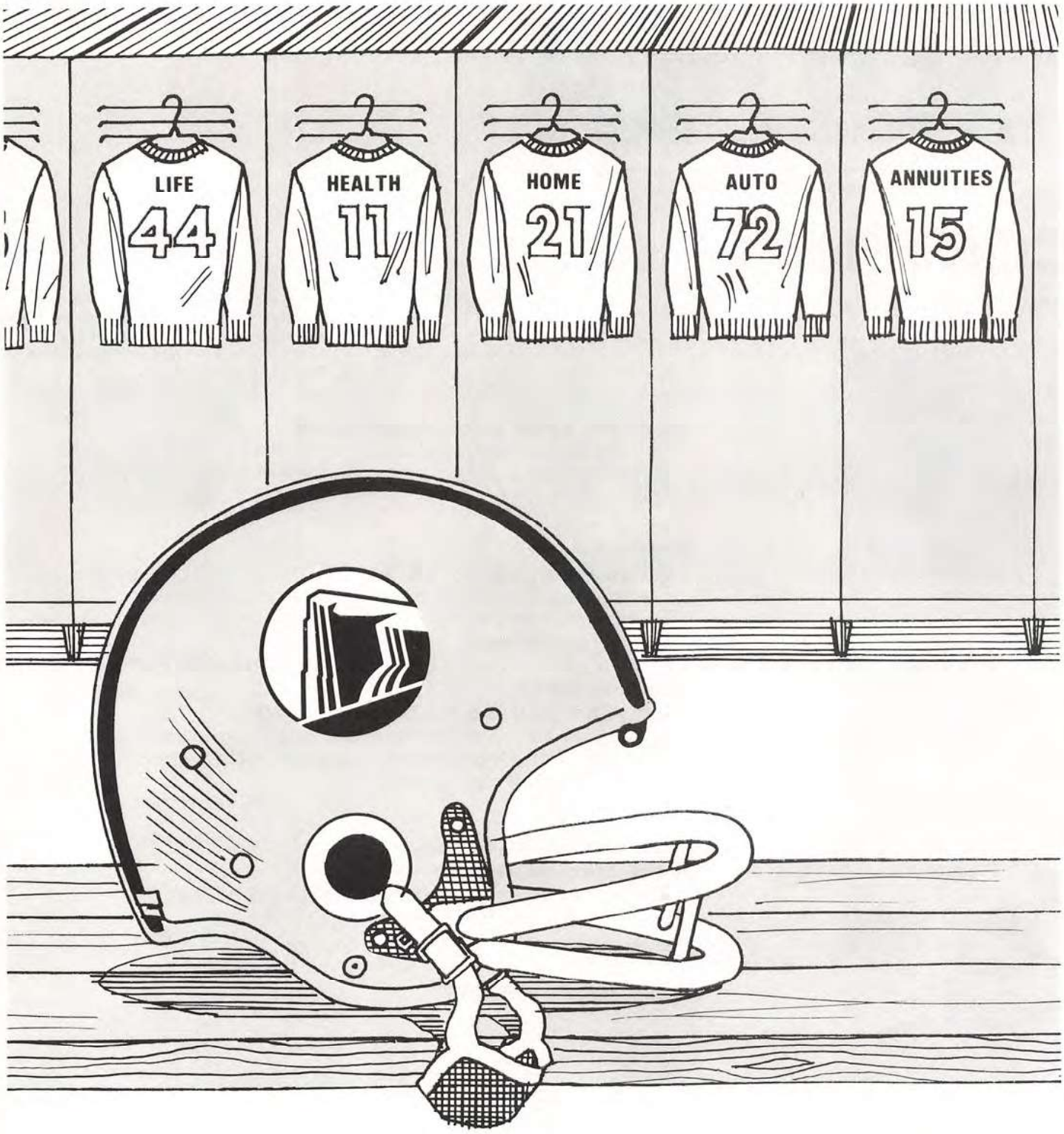

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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

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SCOUTING REPORT

GEORGIA TECH

It's never easy to compile a scouting report on an opposing team, but Bama coaches work under some special handicaps in devising the game plan for Georgia Tech. In addition to this being the first game for both teams, and in addition to the fact that Bama and the Yellow Jackets have not met on the football field since 1964, the Tide did not even get to scout Georgia Tech in a spring game. Coach Pepper Rodgers called off that skirmish, which would have given Alabama scouts at least a limited idea of what to expect from the Ramblin' Wrecks in 1979.

Tide assistant coach Dee Powell is in charge of the scouting report for Georgia Tech and he admits that it is a difficult assignment. However, notes coach Powell, "even if we had scouted them for a month, we would know that we have our work cut out for us. The Georgia Tech strengths are those things that really work to our disfavor, or at least they could. They appear to have the men coming back that will make it very difficult for us to run. And their offense will probably be pass-oriented, which hits at the area of our defense that has the least depth and experience."

Tech's 1979 team features essentially a veteran defense and inexperienced offense. However, the offense does boast a potentially outstanding quarterback.

Mike Kelley, who took over the first string quarterback reins as a freshman in the third game last season, is the focal point of the Jacket attack. Mainly because of his talents, the Jackets can be expected to adjust their "I" offense to more of a pro-type offense. Former Florida Heisman Trophy winning quarterback Steve Spurrier has been added to

Mike Kelley leads the Georgia Tech offense again in 1979. The sophomore will benefit from the instruction of Tech's new QB coach, former Heisman trophy winner Steve Spurrier.

J. Barry Mittan Photo.

the Tech staff as quarterback coach and that spells "passing game." Although just a sophomore, Kelley has poise, a strong arm, quick release and an ability to spot secondary receivers. At 6-3½, 180-pounds, Kelly will pose a major problem not only for the Tide defensive backs and linebackers covering receivers, but for the rushing down linemen. Last year he hit 48.7 percent of his passes (96-for-197) for 1,479 yards and seven touchdowns in 10 games. He was sacked just three times for 28 yards, best in NCAA record books.

Fullback Rodney Lee (5-11, 206), who gained 392 yards on 82 carries last year, has been switched to tailback. He'll be pushed by soph Darish Davis (5-9, 195), who at one time had committed to Alabama. Fullback candidates include JC transfer Dan Wood, sophomore David Allen, senior Ray Friday (recovering from knee surgery after an amazing eight rushes for 122 yards last year) and junior Danny Mann (who missed spring practice to play baseball).

Wide receivers, who will play an important role in Tech's pass-oriented offense, will come from a list of virtual unknowns. Matt Rank played some last year, but Kris Kentera was held out of action. The best of the lot may turn out to be Leon Chadwick (5-11, 175), a product of Ferrum (Va.) Junior College, where he caught 49 passes for 1,100 yards and 18 touchdowns last season.

In the line, regular guards Ben Utt (6-4, 220) and Steve Walker (6-2, 225) are back, as is center and captain Tom Daniel (6-5, 240), who is recovering from mid-season knee surgery. Scott Simons (6-4, 260) and either Clint Momon (6-3, 231) or David Lutz (6-6, 255) will man the tackles.

Tight end candidates include George Moore (6-4, 218), who had 14 receptions for 196 yards last year, then had knee surgery in the spring, and Glenn Etheridge (6-2, 198).

Eight members of the first defensive unit plus a couple of players who started on occasion give Tech reasonable reason to be improved on defense this year. Henry Johnson (6-2, 230) and Al Richardson (6-2, 201) were outstanding at inside and outside linebacker spots last year. Johnson led the Jackets in tackles with 99 while Richard had 68, including nine sacks, and five fumble recoveries. Mike Helm (6-4, 233) and Bill Haley (5-10, 192) are competing for the other inside linebacker post, while Mackel Harris (6-0, 196) is the other starter outside. Tom Sooksey (6-1, 207) and Ivey Stokes (5-11, 221) are capable noseguard candidates. The ends are likely to be Marvin Dyett (6-3, 235 and a member of the *Football News* Freshman All-America team last year) and returning starter Mark Bradley (6-3, 239), but transfer Rick Olive and Lynwood Volley will compete.

Linebackers Mackel Harris (44) and Henry Johnson (54) are two of the many veterans returning to the Tech defense, which should be improved over a strong squad last year.

Tech's secondary situation is about as unsettled as Alabama's. Cornerback Ken Taylor and safety Lawrence Lowe are returning starters, with Lowe moving from strong to free safety. The other starters are likely to be soph Kevin Schmidt at cornerback and redshirted freshman Mark Sheffield at strong safety.

Ted Peeples beat out Jeff Pierce near the end of last season for the punting job and both return. Pierce averaged 38.7 yards per punt, Peeples 34.3. Dependable Johnny Smith (26 of 27 extra points, nine of 13 field goals) returns as placekicker.

Tech head coach Rodgers doesn't try to hide the fact that his team will be throwing the football. "We threw more this spring than all our other springs put together," he said. "If we have an equalizer this season, it has to be the quarterback. This will be one of the best throwing teams I've ever had, and not just at Georgia Tech." Rodgers, of course, was head coach at Kansas and UCLA before returning to his alma mater six years ago.

Undoubtedly Tech has incentive. When Bama played its spring A-Day game last April, a number of Tech players made the trip on their own to watch their opening opponents.

While Alabama has not been in Grant Field in a number of years, one thing will be familiar to Crimson Tide players. The Tech field has an AstroTurf surface.

— Kirk McNair

MOSCOW 1980

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YOU'RE THE COACH

"You're the Coach" is designed to provide you with all the pertinent statistics necessary for an accurate evaluation of these two teams' strengths and weaknesses. Add the information in "You're the Coach" to the more specific information in the Scouting Report, and you'll have a working knowledge of both teams' individual players and team characteristics. Now, who's going to win? That's for you to decide, because "You're the Coach!"

1978 Cumulative Statistics

Returning Starters: 13
1978 Overall Record: 7-5

	BAMA	GA. TECH
TEAM OFFENSE		
Rushes attempted	638	484
Yards gained	3462	2464
Yards lost	304	174
Net yards gained	3158	2290
Avg. gain per rush	4.9	4.7
Touchdowns	31	16
Passes attempted	158	234
Passes completed	85	114
Passes intercepted	10	11
Percentage	.538	.487
Total Yards	1275	1780
Touchdowns	13	10
Passes caught	85	114
Total yards	1275	1780
Avg. gain per catch	15.0	15.6
Touchdowns	13	11
TEAM DEFENSE		
Rushes attempted	485	569
Yards gained	1981	2558
Yards lost	441	273
Net yards gained	1540	2285
Avg. gain per rush	3.2	4.0
Touchdowns	7	14
Passes attempted	257	225
Passes completed	142	117
Passes intercepted	13	14
Percentage	.553	.520
Total yards	1861	1685
Touchdowns	12	7
PUNTING		
Number	59	70
Yards	2273	2637
Avg.	38.5	37.7
Longest		60
FUMBLES /LOST	42/17	22/14
PENALTIES / YARDS	58/566	57/539

INDIVIDUAL OFFENSE*

Rushing	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
(BAMA) Ogilvie	90	583	6.5	8	41
(BAMA) Jackson	103	563	5.5	2	87
(GT) Lee	82	392	4.8	2	42
(GT) Friday	8	122	15.3	2	66

Passing	PA	PC	PI	YDS	%	TD
(BAMA) Shealy	14	9	0	150	.643	0
(GT) Kelley	197	96	10	1479	.487	7

Receiving	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
(BAMA) Pugh	20	446	22.3	1
(BAMA) Ogilvie	8	13	1.6	1
(GT) Moore	14	196	14.0	1
(GT) Lee	5	100	20.0	1

INDIVIDUAL DEFENSE*

Tackles	Solo	Assisted	Total
(BAMA) Junior	34	20	54
(BAMA) DeNiro	32	17	49
(GT) Johnson	52	47	99
(GT) Harris	59	35	94

Interceptions	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
(BAMA) Harris	3	18	6.0	0
(GT) Lowe	5	41	8.2	0

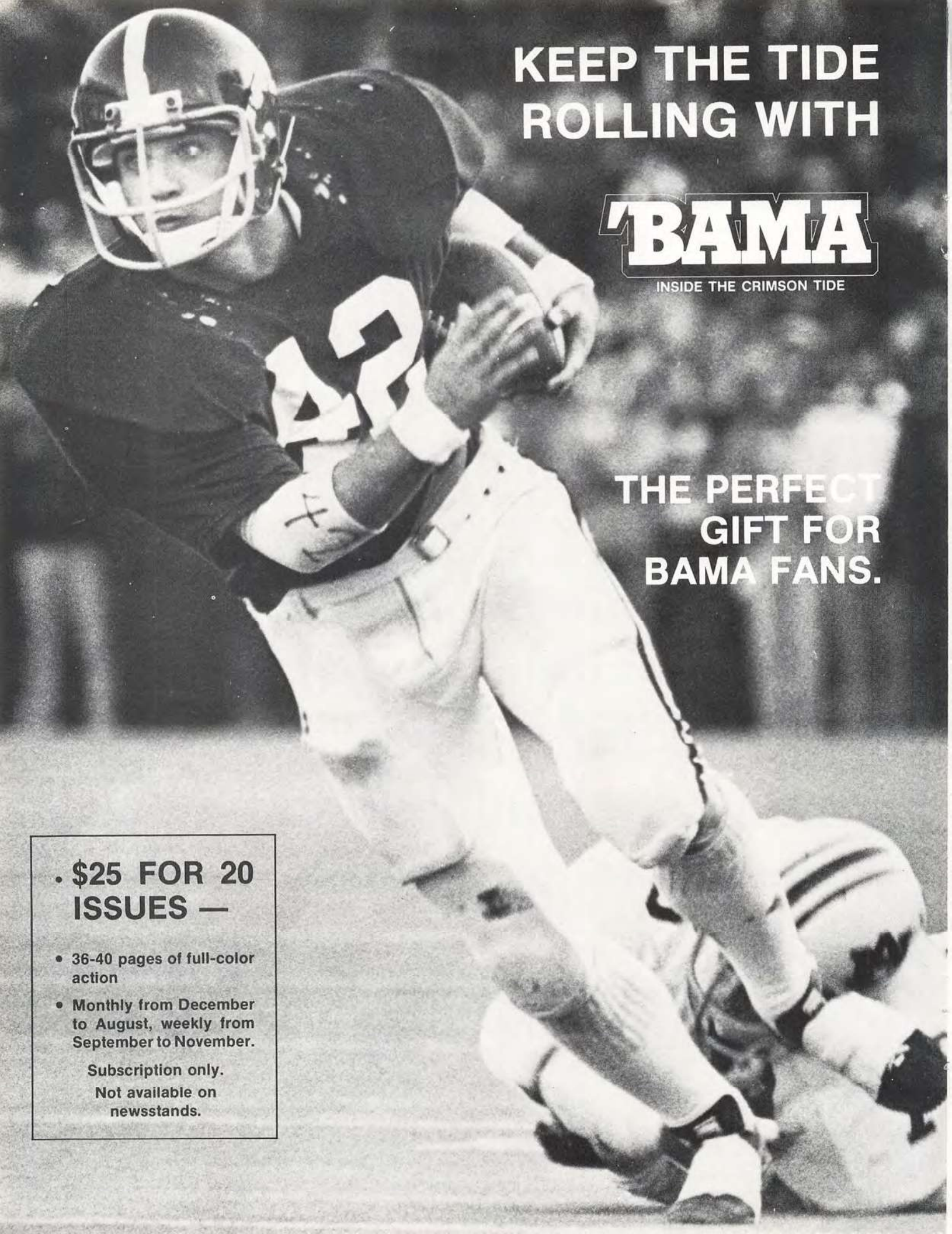
Fumble Recoveries	No.
(BAMA) McGriff	2
(GT) Richardson	5

*Returning players listed

1979 UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA ALPHABETICAL FOOTBALL ROSTER

Name	Pos	Class	Birthdate	Hgt	Wgt	Exp	Hometown	High School
Scott ALLISON	OG	Junior	3-26-59	6-1	242	1L	Titusville, Fla.	Astronaut
Buddy AYDELETTE	OT	Senior	8-19-56	6-5	238	2L	Mobile	Murphy
Wiley BARNES	C-OT	Senior	3-17-56	6-4	258	1L	Marianna, Fla.	Marianna
Joe BEAZLEY	DT	Frosh	1-21-60	6-5	223	RS	Woodbridge, Va.	Woodbridge
Thomas BOLER	OT	Junior	5-16-58	6-4	265	JV	Northport	Tuscaloosa County
David BOOKER	SE	Junior	6-19-58	6-0	160	Sq	Huntsville	Butler
Vince BOOTHE	OG	Senior	12-15-56	6-3	237	2L	Fairhope	Fairhope
Thomas BOYD	LB	Soph	11-24-59	6-3	202	1L	Huntsville	Lee
Byron BRAGGS	DT	Junior	10-10-59	6-6	260	2L	Montgomery	Carver
Gary BRAMBLETT	OG	Frosh	7-23-60	6-1½	239	RS	Dalton, Ga.	Dalton
Mike BROCK	OG	Senior	10- 9-57	6-3	241	2L	Montgomery	Jeff Davis
Johnny BROOKER	PK	Soph	10-30-59	6-1	195	JV	Demopolis	Demopolis
Bill BROWN	DB	Soph	6-16-59	5-11	176	JV	DeKalb, Ms.	West Kemper
Jim BUNCH	OT	Senior	3-10-56	6-1½	240	3L	Mechanicsville, Va.	Lee-Davis
Butch BUNN	P	Junior	1-23-58	6-0	187	JV	Bessemer	Hueytown
Danny CASTEEL	DT	Frosh	7- 4-60	6-6	235	RS	Florence	Coffee
Bob CAYAVEC	TE	Frosh	6- 9-60	6-2	210	RS	Largo, Fla.	Largo
Tim CLARK	SE	Soph	11-20-58	5-9	166	1L	Newnan, Ga.	Newnan
Mike CLEMENTS	DB	Junior	6-11-57	6-0	176	1L	Center Point	Erwin
Jackie CLINE	DT	Frosh	3-13-60	6-5	252	RS	McCalla	McAdory
Prince COLLEY	DB	Soph	3-15-59	5-11	164	JV	Mobile	McGill-Toolen
Allen CONNELL	DT	Junior	10- 7-58	6-6	260	Sq	Alexandria, La.	Bolton
John COOK	OG	Frosh	11- 8-59	6-3	229	RS	Woodbridge, Va.	Woodbridge
Vince COWELL	OG	Junior	11-14-58	6-3	224	1L	Snellville, Ga.	South Gwinnett
Bob DASHER	C	Frosh	6- 5-60	6-3	227	RS	Plymouth, Mich.	Salem
Gary DeNIRO	DE-LB	Junior	12-24-57	6-0	211	1L	Youngstown, Ohio	Chaney
John DYESS	RB	Soph	11-13-59	5-9	175	JV	Elba	Elba
Rusty FAUST	OT	Soph	8-17-60	6-4	270	Sq	Fairhope	Fairhope
Mitch FERGUSON	RB	Junior	12- 4-57	5-11	209	1L	Augusta, Ga.	Lucy Laney
Pat FOLMAR	QB	Junior	12-18-58	6-3	184	JV	Luverne	Crenshaw Academy
Marvis FREEMAN	DB	Junior	2- 7-59	6-0	181	JV	Tuscumbia	Deshler
Robert GAINES	DE	Frosh	12-19-59	6-3	215	—	Huntsville	Chamberlin
Bill GLASS	OG	Soph	11-27-56	6-0	224	JV	Birmingham	John Carroll
Steve GLASS	LB	Frosh	5-10-59	5-11	176	—	Demopolis	Demopolis
Alan GRAY	QB-RB	Soph	8- 8-59	6-2	186	Sq	Tampa, Fla.	H. B. Plant
Wayne HAMILTON	DE	Senior	2-18-58	6-5	232	2L	Okahumpka, Fla.	Leesburg
James HANEY	RB	Soph	10-10-58	5-11	190	Sq	Rogersville	Lauderdale County
David HANNAH	DT	Senior	12-21-56	6-3	229	3L	Albertville	Baylor
Butch HARKNESS	DE	Junior	1-25-59	6-0	209	JV	Winfield	Winfield
Jim Bob HARRIS	QB-DB	Soph	12-19-59	6-2	189	1L	Athens, Ga.	Clarke Central
Greg HAYNES	DB	Frosh	9- 6-60	6-2	195	RS	Athens	Athens
Josh HENDERSON	DB	Frosh	4-22-59	6-0	193	RS	Panama City, Fla.	Bay County
John HILL	FB	Junior	1- 6-58	6-2	210	Sq	Centre	Cherokee County
Tim HILL	RB	Soph	1-30-59	6-1	193	Sq	Centre	Cherokee County
Buddy HOLT	TE-P	Senior	2-25-57	6-2	201	1L	Demopolis	Demopolis
Scott HOMAN	DT	Frosh	6-27-60	6-7	243	RS	Elkhart, Ind.	Central
James HUGHES	LB	Soph	5-18-59	6-0	200	—	Mobile	Davidson
Mike INMAN	DT	Junior	3-22-58	6-5	232	Sq	Loganville, Ga.	South Gwinnett
Billy JACKSON	RB	Junior	9-13-59	6-0	210	1L	Phenix City	Central
Don JACOBS	QB-DB	Junior	12- 6-58	6-2	180	Sq	Scottsboro	Scottsboro
Amos JONES	RB	Soph	12-31-59	5-10	185	JV	Aliceville	Pickens Academy
Joe JONES	RB	Junior	3- 1-57	5-11	180	1L	Thomaston, Ga.	Robert E. Lee
Robbie JONES	LB	Frosh	12-25-59	6-3	205	RS	Demopolis	Demopolis

Bobby JOHNSON .....FB	Soph		5-11	225	Tr	Andalusia	Andalusia
E. J. JUNIOR .....DE	Junior	12- 8-59	6-3	227	2L	Nashville, Tenn.	Maplewood
Mike KENNEDY .....FB	Soph	5-20-59	6-1½	195	JV	Red Bay	Red Bay
Bart KROUT .....TE	Soph	10-20-59	6-3	225	1L	Birmingham	Berry
John LANCASTER ....DE	Junior	9-19-57	6-0	184	JV	Tuscaloosa	Tuscaloosa
Greg LANDERS .....DB	Frosh	10- 1-59	5-11	170	—	Birmingham	Banks
Eddie LOWE .....DB	Soph	2- 1-60	5-11	198	Tr	Phenix City	Central
Warren LYLES .....NG	Soph	7- 2-59	6-2	245	1L	Birmingham	Pinson Valley
James MALLARD .....SE	Junior	11-29-57	6-2	185	RS	Tampa, Fla.	Chamberlain
George MARDINI .....PK	Soph	7- 9-55	5-8	185	—	Damascus, Syria	Damascus
Bobby MARKS .....DB	Soph	9- 6-58	6-0	185	RS	Tuscaloosa	Tuscaloosa
Keith MARKS .....SE	Frosh	10-31-59	6-1	185	RS	Tuscaloosa	Tuscaloosa
John MAURO .....DE	Junior	3- 8-58	6-4	212	1L	South Bend, Ind.	Marian
David McCARTY .....LB	Soph	10-20-59	6-0	220	Sq	Birmingham	Berry
Eddie McCOMBS .....OT	Junior	11- 4-58	6-4½	241	1L	Birmingham	Erwin
Alan McELROY .....PK	Senior	10-28-56	6-4	200	1L	Tuscaloosa	Tuscaloosa
Curtis McGRIFF .....DT	Senior	5-17-58	6-5	264	2L	Cottonwood	Cottonwood
Don McNEAL .....DB	Senior	5- 6-58	6-1	187	2L	Atmore	Escambia County
Denny MERRITT .....OT	Frosh	12-26-60	6-3	215	RS	Andalusia	Andalusia
Jeff MILLER .....OT	Frosh	3-30-60	6-3	243	RS	Clarkston, Ga.	Rockdale County
Farrar MONTGOMERY .OT	Junior	10-26-58	6-9	292	Sq	Atmore	Escambia County
Clay MOSS .....SE	Frosh	3-12-60	6-1	154	—	Tuscaloosa	Tuscaloosa Academy
Mark NIX .....RB-DB	Soph	1- 1-59	6-0	195	Sq	Altoona	West End
Major OGILVIE .....RB	Junior	12-12-58	6-0	187	2L	Birmingham	Mountain Brook
Ben ORCUTT .....RB-DB	Soph	3-21-59	5-11	184	Sq	Arlington Heights, Ill.	Buffalo Grove
Benny PERRIN .....DB	Soph	10-20-59	6-2	176	Sq	Decatur	Decatur
Mike PITTS .....DE	Frosh	9-25-60	6-5	234	RS	Baltimore, Md.	Polytechnic
Doug PRATER .....RB	Junior	10-16-57	5-11	200	—	Gadsden	Glencoe
Keith PUGH .....SE	Senior	8- 6-57	6-1	174	2L	Evergreen	Monroe Academy
David REEVES .....DB	Soph	11-24-58	5-10	185	Sq	Dothan	Dothan
Steve RHODEN .....QB	Soph	2-14-59	6-0	159	JV	Red Bay	Red Bay
Joe ROBBINS C	Junior	10-28-57	6-3	235	1L	Opp	Opp
Bill ROBINSON .....DB	Soph	6-11-59	6-0	165	JV	Richmond, Va.	Collegiate
David ROGERS .....DB	Soph	7-23-57	6-2	185	—	Mobile	Davidson
Ricky ROZZELL .....LB	Frosh	12- 6-58	6-1	208	RS	Pascagoula, Miss.	Pascagoula
Roy RUMBLEY .....DE	Soph	10-15-60	6-3	220	JV	Moss Point, Miss.	Moss Point
Frank SAZERA .....SE	Junior	4-30-59	6-2	171	JV	Jemison	Jemison
Randy SCOTT .....LB	Junior	1-31-59	6-1	205	1L	Decatur, Ga.	Columbia
Bill SEARCEY .....OG	Junior	3- 3-58	6-1	238	1L	Savannah, Ga.	Dwight Military
Steadman SHEALY ....QB	Senior	6- 8-58	6-0	186	2L	Dothan	Dothan
David SHERRILL .....SE	Soph	7- 6-60	6-2	190	JV	Birmingham	John Carroll
Richard SHINN .....NG	Soph	5- 3-60	6-7	210	JV	Columbiana	Shelby County
Barry SMITH C	Senior	7-24-57	6-2	184	2L	Anniston	Saks
Bobby SMITH .....DB	Senior	9-24-57	6-0	178	1L	Fairhope	Fairhope
Marvin SMITH .....OT	Soph	3- 4-58	6-7	247	Sq	Gadsden	Emma Sansom
Peter SMITH .....DB	Junior	3-19-59	5-11	165	JV	Birmingham	West End
Tom SPENCER .....DB	Junior	10- 8-58	6-2	174	JV	Fairfax, Va.	W. T. Woodson
Jerrill SPRINKLE .....DB	Frosh	1-18-60	6-1	183	RS	Chamblee, Ga.	Sequoyah
Dwight STEPHENSON ...C	Senior	11-20-57	6-3	242	2L	Hampton, Va.	Hampton
John THEIS .....DE	Soph	2-20-60	6-1	222	JV	Daphne	Fairhope
Tim TRAVIS .....TE	Senior	5-20-58	6-1	227	2L	Bessemer	Hueytown
Ricky TUCKER .....DB	Junior	1-14-59	6-0	176	2L	Florence	Bradshaw
Woody UMPHREY .....P	Junior	10- 5-58	6-0	176	1L	Bourbonnais, Ill.	Bradley
Steve WHITMAN .....FB	Senior	6-27-57	6-3	231	2L	Birmingham	Huffman
Tommy WILCOX ...QB-DB	Frosh	7-30-59	5-11	177	RS	Harahan, La.	Bonnabel
Charlie WILLIAMS .....FB	Frosh	11-24-59	5-11	219	RS	Bessemer	Jess Lanier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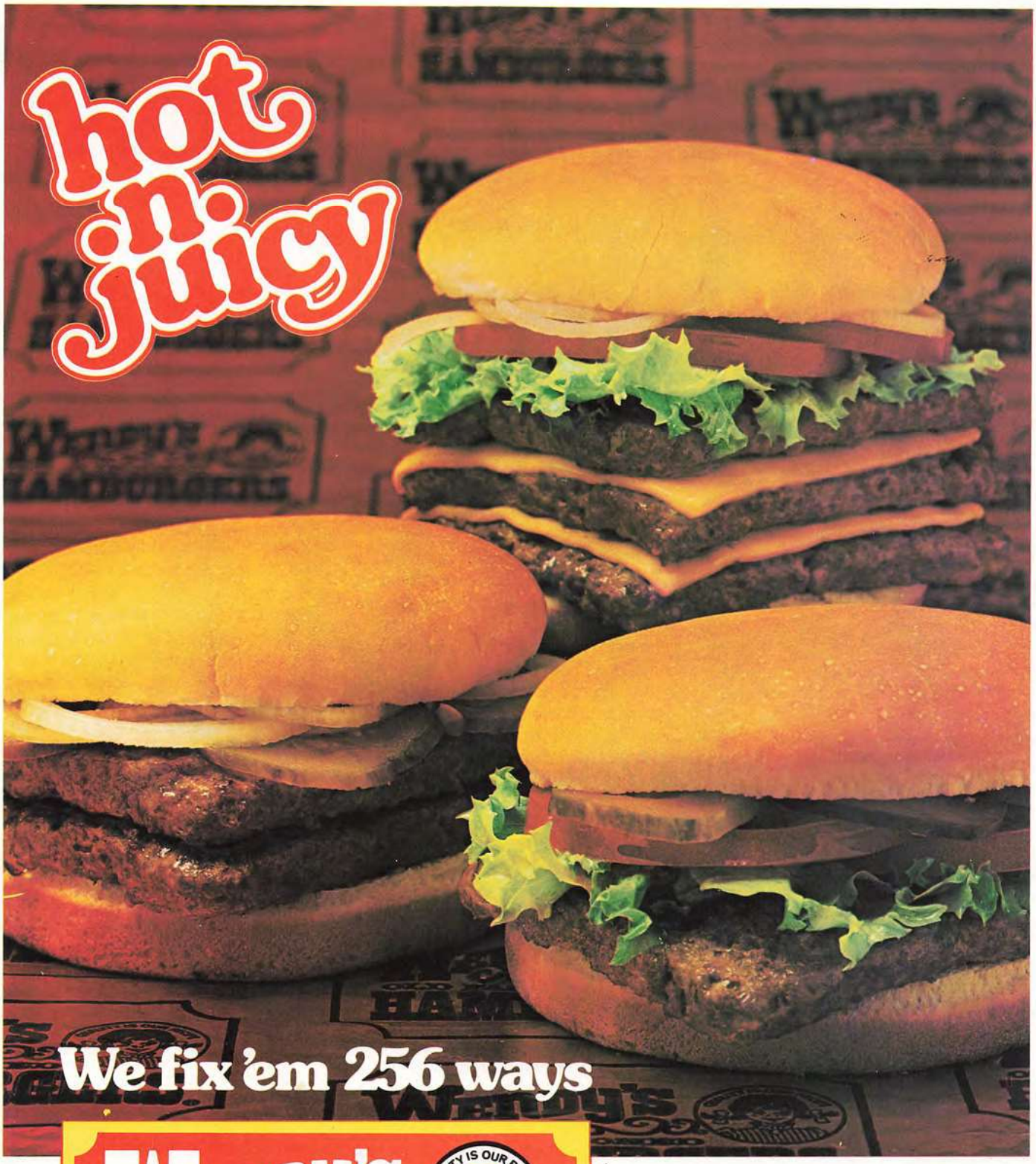
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SEASON PREVIEW

IN THE RUNNING

by Kirk McNair

The University of Alabama Athletic Department ordered new stationery following the 1979 Sugar Bowl national championship and update the bowl record that is listed on the writing paper. A Bama fan receiving a note on this paper sent back a dollar to the Athletic Department, "as my donation for ordering new stationery next year when we win the 1979 championship."

Alabama will always have that 1978 title but, as everyone knows, it will soon be the time of, "But what have you done lately?" The new season is fast approaching and no one talks about last year's champion after the polls begin. All signs point to the Crimson Tide of Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant being where most Alabama teams are, in the thick of the running for the national championship.

Some of the reasons:

*Alabama returns 38 lettermen and 16 starters (including kickers) from last year's national championship team.

*Alabama's 1979 schedule is far less strenuous than the killer slate of 1978, with Georgia Tech, Baylor, Wichita State and Miami taking the places of Nebraska, Missouri, Southern Cal and Washington.

*Alabama has strength where most games are won, in the offensive and defensive lines. Only the tight end is lost in the offensive front and only one tackle is missing from the defensive line.

*Recent Alabama recruiting seasons have been fruitful, including the most recent one. There are good, young, quality athletes providing competition for jobs and depth.

*Coach Bryant, the best in his business.

*Alabama tradition. Most opponents are beaten before they take the field, because they know they are expected to lose to Alabama (although none would ever admit to this).

This is not to say that things will be a cakewalk. Far from it. College football always means graduating part of your team. Bama graduated 20 lettermen from last year's squad and replacements must be found for these men, particularly the eight starters lost.

That so-called weak schedule could also be a problem. Although the schedule is really not particularly weak, the presence of lightweight Wichita State and the comparison of the schedule with last year's could put Bama in the situation of having to win one more game than all other contenders. In other words, the Tide may have to go undefeated and have every other team lose at least one game in order to overcome a prejudice against not playing against any highly-ranked teams.

There is also the Bama secondary. Although Don McNeal is one of the finest ever to play in any college defensive backfield and Jim Bob Harris and Ricky Tucker are outstanding young players, it could be that Bama does not have enough quality performers in this important area, where a team can be defeated quickly. Of the 20 touchdowns the Bama defense gave up last year, 13 were passing touchdowns and six of those were for more than 35 yards. Of the Tiders injured late last season and in spring training, an unusually high number of them were defensive backs — including three who could reasonably be expected to be starters this year, Tucker, Harris and Mike Clements. Others included Bobby Marks, Bobby Smith, Greg Haynes, Jerrill Sprinkle, David Reeves and Josh Henderson.

Certainly quarterback is an area of concern, although perhaps it shouldn't be. If Steadman Shealy stays sound (and he went through last season without being injured) the signal-calling spot should be a strong Bama point. If not, it's questionable. Not because of skill, because Don Jacobs, Tommy Wilcox, Alan Gray and Jim Bob Harris have ability. But they have only a smattering of experience other than practice, Jacobs and Gray in junior varsity competition and Jacobs in a few varsity plays.

No team in the nation lost the linebackers that Bama lost last year with Barry Krauss and Rich Wingo graduating to the NFL and Rickey Gilliland being overlooked by that league because of size. Randy Scott and Thomas Boyd played enough linebacker to letter, but linebacker is an unknown quantity.

Looking at the squad position-by-position:

The Offense

SPLIT END Men who caught over half the Bama receptions have graduated, including Bruce Bolton (15 catches), Rick Neal (17) and Tony Nathan (13). Of these, only Bolton was a split end. In fact, Bama returns its number one receiver, split end Keith Pugh, who started most of the Tide games last year. Keith had the big shoes of Ozzie Newsome to fill and he responded with some catches that would have made the Wizard of Oz envious. Keith had 20 receptions for 446 yards, a 22.3 yards per catch average, but only one touchdown. Pugh will probably be backed by Keith Marks, who was redshirted last year as a freshman but who was the leading receiver in the spring A-Day game with five catches for 96 yards. Tim Clark is small (5-9, 166) and doesn't make much of a target, but he's quick and will see playing time at split end as well as kicking off. Alan Gray could be used at split end (as well as quarterback or running back). Bama may have the services of track sprinter James Mallard for split end, although it's more likely that James (if he's recovered from a hamstring pull suffered in the NCAA track championships) would be used on kick returns. Split end attracts a number of walk-ons and the best two Bama tryouts would seem to be David Booker, a junior, and David Sherrill, a sophomore.

LEFT TACKLE As with most interior offensive line spots, this is a real strong point. Buddy Aydelette was the starter last year and is back for his senior season. Eddie McCombs, an upcoming junior, was his backup last year but is considered first team. Both are strong blockers. Bama players feel that McCombs is perhaps the best blocker in the offensive line because of his explosive start, but he's not quite as sound as Aydelette. Interestingly, both are

Junior Billy Jackson, having left one Auburn defender in his wake, lowers his head as he meets another. The former backup fullback looked impressive at left halfback in the spring.

former tight ends. Former center Denny Merritt is a future player here. Behind them will probably be walkon Thomas Boler, a nephew of former Tider Clark Boler. Thomas was unable to participate last year after reporting to camp with high blood pressure. He was formerly a defensive tackle.

LEFT GUARD Another strong point with the top two men returning from last season. Mike Brock has been one of the Tide's most improved players since walking on. Not only did he grade out very high last year (earning All-SEC honors), he had an outstanding spring, winning the Paul Crane Most Improved Offensive Lineman Award. Behind him, Scott Allison has good skill and got plenty of playing time last year. John Cook, a redshirted freshman, by his own admission did not have a good summer of workouts because of a lack of facilities available to him in Virginia.

CENTER Dwight Stephenson has been listed on one advance sheet as the number one professional prospect in the country at center. Dwight has had back-to-back All-SEC seasons and has more than held his own against some of the nation's best noseguards. He'll have the additional incentive this year of playing for a pro contract. Bama has great depth behind him, albeit somewhat inexperienced. Joe Robbins and Wiley Barnes have been around for a few years without a great deal of playing time, but both had good spring work. Alabama had three freshmen centers redshirted last year, but by the end of spring drills only Bob Dasher was left at that position, the others moving to tackle spots (Denny Merritt and Jeff Miller).

A real specialist, Barry Smith, will continue to be among the nation's best snappers on punts and extra points.

RIGHT GUARD Vince Boothe is back as a starter and perhaps somewhat surprisingly is surfacing on the pro scouting lists. This position is not nearly as strong as it would have appeared a few weeks ago because top backup man Bill Searcey is lost for at least half the season to a broken ankle suffered in a water skiing accident late in the summer. Gary Bramblett, a redshirted freshman, is listed behind him. There's almost certain to be some shifting of personnel to take up the slack in depth by the loss of Searcey.

RIGHT TACKLE Three-year starter Jim Bunch is back for his final season and is hoping to revert to his outstanding sophomore form. Although Jim made All-SEC last year, even he knows it was probably on reputation more than his 1978 performance. He's had a good summer of workouts, living in Tuscaloosa, with more weight on his shoulders and chest and less in his middle, and is still at about 240. Wiley Barnes, in addition to backing up center, will probably continue to back up at tackle, as will Vince Cowell (if he's not moved to right guard). Rusty Faust saw some playing time here as a freshman last year before being injured. Rusty has a problem keeping his weight down, but he has great potential. Denny Miller moved from center to add depth at right tackle, a key blocking point in the wishbone attack.

TIGHT END Although this is the only position across the offensive front where a starter was lost from last year, there's no tendency to call this a weak or questionable spot, provided that Bart Krout is ready to go. Tim Travis starts off as number one after having seen action at tight end the past three years. Tim was having a rather poor time of it in early spring workouts, but by the midpoint of spring drills defensive linemen could attest that he was back in form. Krout has superstar written all over him if he can rebound from that freak knee

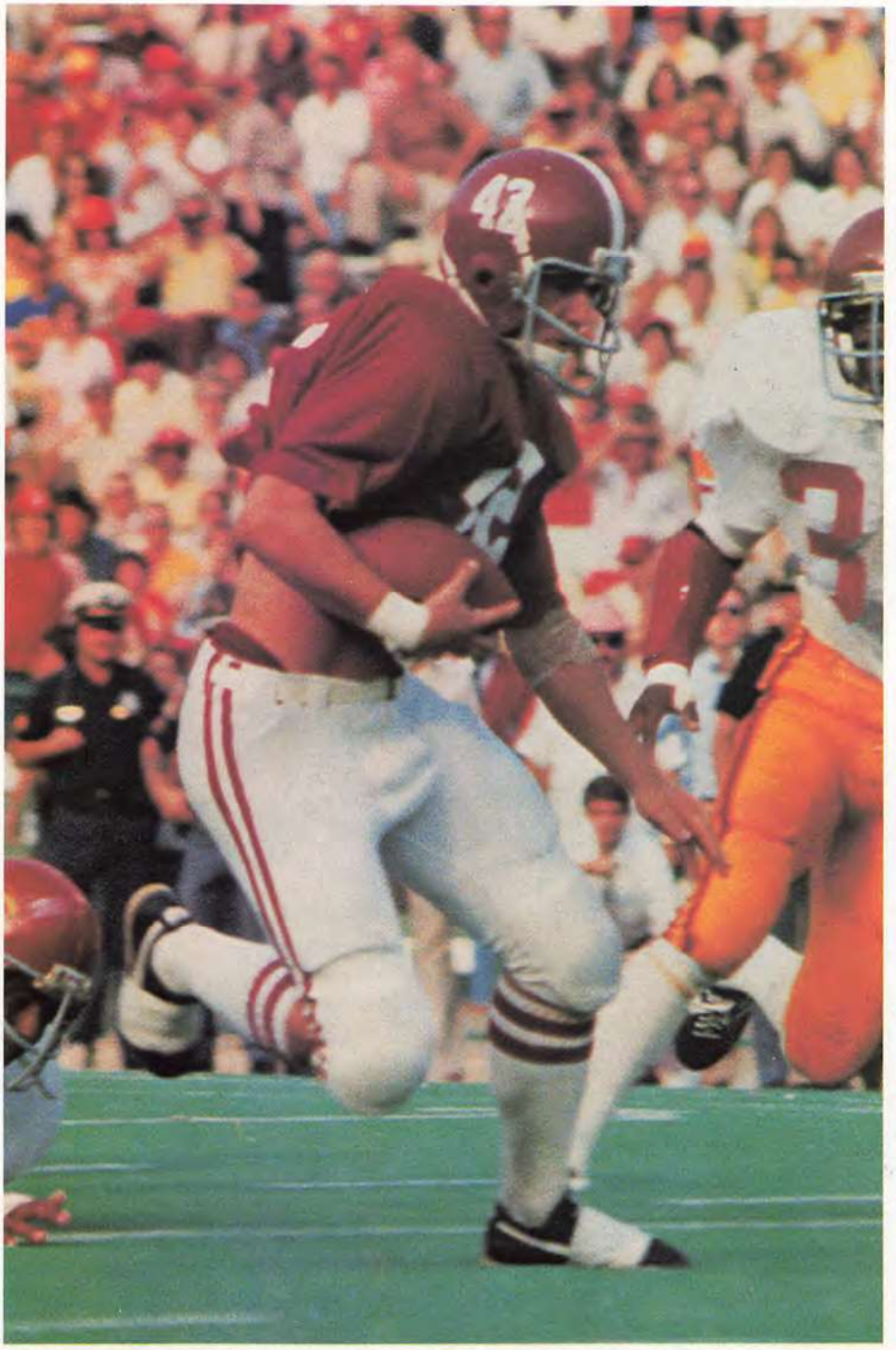
The Crimson Tide option at work against Mississippi State: A Bulldog defender is helplessly suspended in mid-air from a block by Joe Jones (24), while Lou Ikner (30) readies for the pitch, Steadman Shealy (10) surveys the situation, and an official watches the action.

injury suffered in the Tennessee game (a broken kneecap that required surgery). Bob Cayavec, a redshirted freshmen who many expected to end up at linebacker, had an outstanding spring. Buddy Holt, who would like to regain the punter's job, is a good athlete who can play tight end or just about anything else with some degree of proficiency. And if need be, Buddy Aydelette could put his hand back in the tight end picture.

LEFT HALFBACK Tony Nathan is gone and his spot will not be easy to fill, but Bama has a couple of strong candidates for the job, both moving from new positions. Billy Jackson was the nation's best backup fullback last year and he looked impressive at left halfback in the spring. He's got good speed and strength and blocks well. Last year only Nathan had more carries (111 to 103) and Billy ended up the third-leading rusher to Nathan and Major Ogilvie with 568 yards, an average of 5.5 per carry with two touchdowns and a long scamper of 87 yards, third longest in Bama history. If Billy stays at fullback, the left halfback's job could fall to Mitch Ferguson, redshirted last year after having started most of 1977 at right halfback. Mitch has had a very good summer of workouts to mend his pulled hamstring. Ben Orcutt had a good spring working at both left halfback and strong safety. Alan Gray, Bama's jack-of-all-trades, also saw duty at right half. James Haney remains questionable after twice having had knee surgery, but if he's healthy he can play either halfback spot.

RIGHT HALFBACK Major Ogilvie is well on his way to being one of Bama's best ever running backs and the Tide's first star right halfback since going to the wishbone offense in 1971 (Johnny Musso, Willie Shelby, Wilbur Jackson, Tony Nathan were all left halfs). Major was second only to Nathan in rushing last year with 90 carries for 583 yards, a 6.5 yards-per-carry average. His eight rushing touchdowns and nine total TDs were team highs. In addition to running, he caught eight passes and completed the only one he tried. Behind Major will likely be Joe Jones and Mark Nix.

FULLBACK Few, if any, teams could move a Billy Jackson from fullback and still have the quality depth at that position that the Tide enjoys. Steve Whitman is perhaps Alabama's most underrated football player. Big (6-3, 231) and strong, Steve rushed 80 times for 364 yards and a respectable 4.6 yards per carry average last year, but more important to the Alabama offensive scheme, he turned into a devastating blocker. In the spring, walk-on John Hill (almost certain to be awarded a scholarship this year) was outstanding, and one of the reasons that it was possible to shift Jackson. Ferguson could also see duty at fullback, as could Nix and Charlie Williams, a redshirted freshman who looks like another Johnny Davis but has been injured since coming to Bama.



Right halfback Major Ogilvie jukes left and prepares to step right and break into the open field against Southern California.

QUARTERBACK Alabama's tradition of great quarterbacks goes back almost as far as the history of football at the Capstone. Steadman Shealy is not yet in that class as he approaches his senior season, but if he stays healthy he could join the prestigious line. After underoing surgery in the spring of 1978, Steadman has gone through one campaign and a limited spring training without further injury, which has to be encouraging. He may still be less than the darter that he was as a sophomore, but experience and confidence should more than make up for any quickness lost. The spring work had Steadman rarely involved in contact work and when he was thus

(continued on page 23)

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STEADMAN SHEALY

Everyone Will Be Watching

by Kirk McNair

Quarterback is a special position and at Alabama the quarterbacks have really been something special. Under Coach Bryant the list is like a *Who's Who of Quarterbacks* — Pat Trammell, Joe Namath, Steve Sloan, Ken Stabler and Scott Hunter in the pre-wishbone days, Terry Davis, Gary Rutledge, Richard Todd, Jack O'Rear, Jeff Rutledge in the powerhouse years of the 1970s.

Into that line steps Steadman Stapleton Shealy Jr., stepping perhaps on the most talked about leg since Namath's.

Two springs ago, the lightning-quick Shealy went down on the practice field with an injured knee. Surgery followed and it was assumed that he would be redshirted in 1978. He came back, though, and played well, getting better and stronger as the season progressed, albeit not back to 1977 quickness. He's now gone through one season and one spring training without further injury of major consequence to the knee, and this year he'll test it as Bama's number one quarterback.

"It's doing all right," said Steadman as Bama prepared for fall training. "I've worked it hard this summer and as a result I've had some pain in it, but I think it's strong." Steadman's summer program included squats, distance running, bicycling, running up steps, work on a leg press machine and special exercises.

Steadman, who is deeply religious and very active in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, feels that the knee injury has made him a better person. "I've put my faith in the Lord on this and I have full confidence that if He wants me to play football, the knee will hold up. Regardless of what comes, I'm grateful for what I've had and I think that perhaps I'm a better person for having had to struggle through this."

He had a scare or two last season. "I developed pain in the top part of the knee after the LSU game last year and it hurt against Auburn and in preparation for the Sugar Bowl. But it felt pretty good this spring. I was tackled on it a few times last year and I pulled out of some tackles on the leg last year, which made me feel good. I only got hit once this spring though, and that was an accident," said Steadman.

Steadman is aware of the tradition of Alabama quarterbacks. "It really hits me sometimes," he says. "I'm real thankful to have the opportunity to be an Alabama quarterback. But I also feel a real responsibility to prepare to do my best. Considering the great quarterbacks that have come through Alabama, it's a great challenge to me."

A lesser person than Steadman might not have been able to work himself into this position. His forte is running and an injured knee could have stripped him of his strong suit. "Steadman is probably the hardest working quarterback we've ever had, and we've had some hard workers," says Bama offensive coordinator and quarterback coach Mal Moore. "He does everything he can to improve himself and help the team, physically and mentally."

Alabama football has brought some big thrills to Steadman. "I think the touchdown drive that we had against Ohio State in the Sugar Bowl my sophomore year and the way we got things going last year against LSU would certainly rank at the top," he says. "But absolutely the biggest thrill I've had in football was when I went on the field last year against Missouri. I felt like 'Rocky,' I guess because I was doing something that few people probably expected I would be able to do, myself included at times. I guess it's hard for someone else to understand, but it was exciting to me."

It was surprising to almost everyone else. Alabama had a comfortable 14-0 lead on Missouri in Columbia late in the first quarter when Steadman made his appearance. On second down he slipped off tackle on a seven-yard gain, drove the Tide down inside Missouri's five and finally settled for a field goal.

Steadman finished last season with 323 yards on 59 carries, fifth best on the Bama team. That worked out to a fine 5.5 yards-per-carry average and included four touchdowns. Those numbers were better than his sophomore season, when he had 58 runs for 279 yards, a 4.8 average with two touchdowns. Steadman hasn't been much of a passing quarterback in the past. He hit 5-of-11 passes as a soph for 57 yards and one touchdown and 9-of-14 attempts for 150 yards last year. He's never been intercepted. In the spring, he was held out of most contact work and spent a lot of time in passing drills. "We did some passing work we hadn't done before this spring," said Steadman. "I haven't thrown the ball in games as much as I would like, but I hope this year that I'm not just a runner, that we mix it up. I've been branded a running quarterback, but I enjoy passing and I think I can be an effective passer. The wishbone offense gives you some good passing situations."

While Steadman's career has generally been a strong one, he has some bad memories. "I'll never forget my first play at Alabama," said Steadman, who can laugh about it now. "I thought Coach Bryant would never put me back in a game again. I had gone in against Nebraska up in Lincoln. I was backing out of center to start the triple option when I slipped and just sat down — it was like I had decided I was just going to sit that play out. Coach Bryant just clapped his hands and encouraged me to try it again."

Steadman also doesn't have too fond a memory from a personal standpoint of last year's Sugar Bowl victory over Penn State. "I didn't contribute much in the game," he said. "It was just exceptional

Steadman Shealy, arm poised for a possible stiff-arm, cuts past Vanderbilt defenders.

→

The pitch is an instrumental and very successful part of Bama's rushing attack. On the following pages, Shealy runs the play against Florida. The pitch requires excellent ball control by the quarterback after taking the snap, total concentration on the part of the back receiving the ball, and a superior blocking job by the fullback and offensive linemen. Here, Shealy (10) is about to pitch to Lou Ikner (30), while Dwight Stephenson (57) picks up a Florida defensive end and Mike Brock (70) leads the sweep.

10

play by Penn State when I was in there. They handled the option very well. I'm sure that if I had been playing more we would have adjusted our scheme."

While Steadman is a very fine football player, he is much more than that. He is a good example of the student-athlete. He is being nominated by Alabama this year for an NCAA Scholar-Athlete Award, a scholarship for post-graduate study. An Academic All-Southeastern Conference selection, he is a leading candidate this year for Academic All-America. Steadman, who was valedictorian of his Dothan High School graduating class, was inducted into ODK, Mortar Board and Kappa Delta Pi honoraries during last spring's Honors Day and was recognized in the College of Education as being in the top one percent academically in that school. In the spring of 1978, when he underwent knee surgery (which was followed by an internal infection) he missed five weeks of school and nevertheless compiled a 2.61 grade point average on a 3.0 scale for the spring semester.

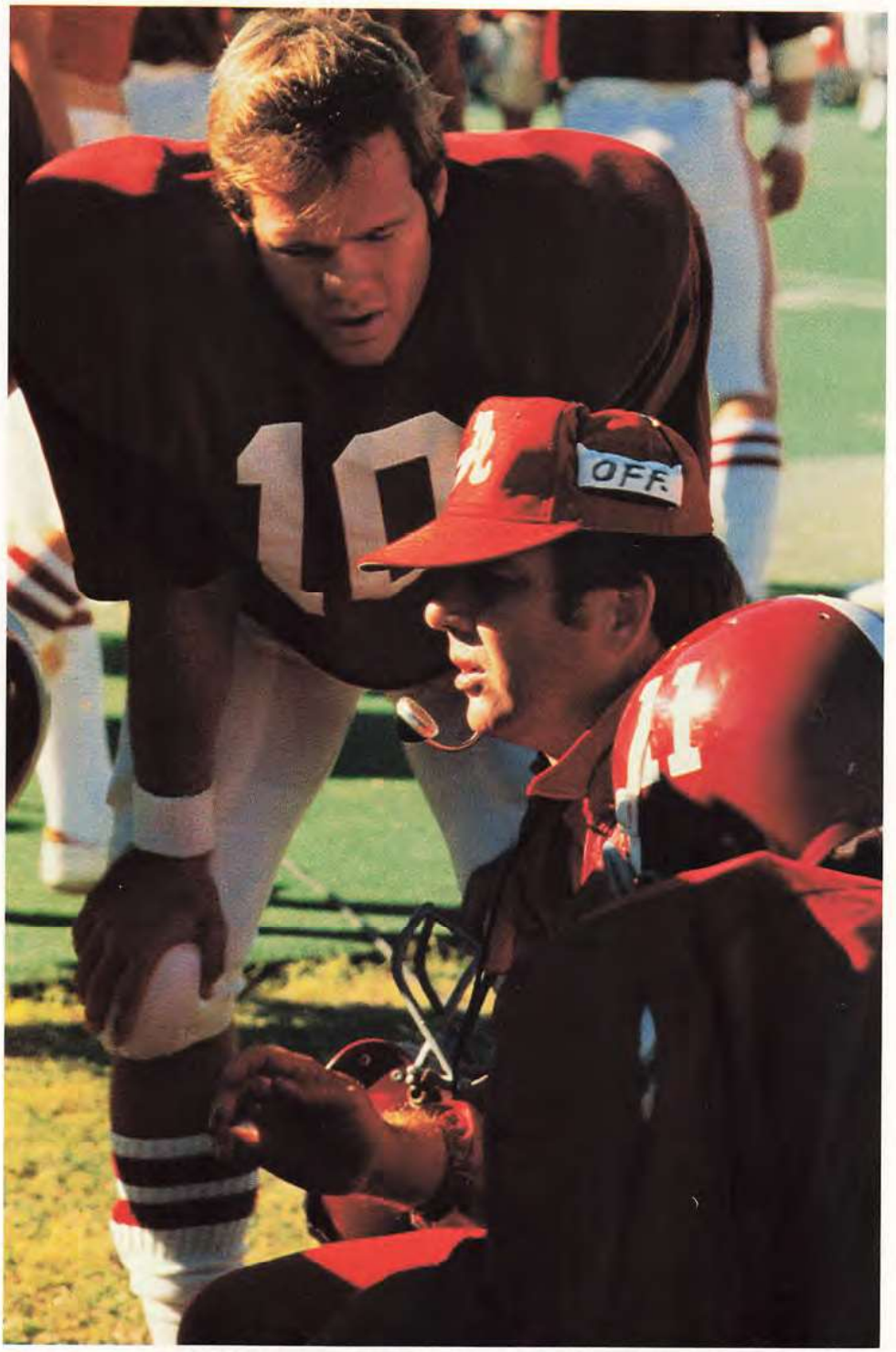
He was also selected to serve on the NCAA Long Range Planning Committee, one of only two student-athletes sitting on that important NCAA board. This summer the committee met in Denver and Steadman participated in discussions of the future of the NCAA, academics, the philosophy of college athletics, etc. Oddly, there was no discussion of a possible playoff for the national football championship. Steadman does not think there would be much support for such a playoff within the NCAA. Another member of the committee is Dr. Richard Perry, director of athletics at Southern Cal. "We compared our national championship rings," said Steadman. "I liked his and he liked mine, but I think I like ours better."

Coach Bryant said that before his knee injury, Steadman was almost certainly going to be one of the best-ever wishbone quarterbacks. "And," says Coach Bryant now, "he may still be. I know that if hard work and dedication will get it done — and it usually will — then Steadman is going to be a fine one."

Steadman says, "I hope I've contributed, particularly last year when we reached our goal of the national championship. I didn't do much my freshman year, but I got to play a lot as a soph. I don't think that I progressed much last year, certainly not as much as I would have liked, but I think that it was because so much of my time and effort was put into the knee. I know that it's been great to have been associated with the University of Alabama — the coaches and players, the workouts and the games, and the student life here."

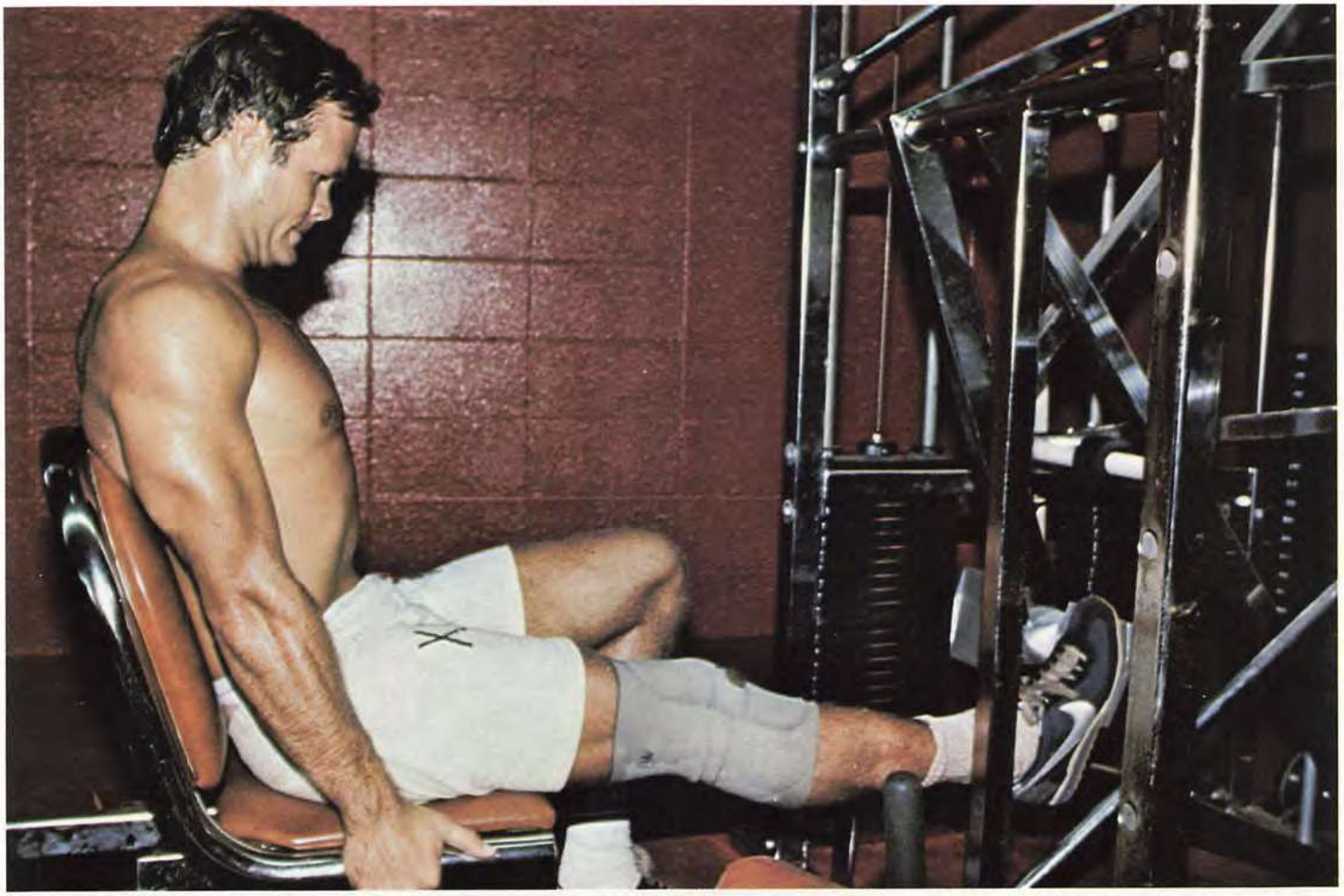
Like everyone else, Steadman is anxiously awaiting the 1979 season and defense of the national title. "I'm so tired of everyone saying we've got such an easy schedule," he says. "I think we're going to have to work even harder than we've been working. Everyone will be gunning for us and we've got a lot to uphold and without a lot of good people who helped us win last year. We're going to have to have a lot of young guys who haven't really been tested come through for us.

"I think we have the possibility of winning the national championship again and that will certainly be our goal. But



Steadman makes a point in a sideline quarterbacks conference with Tide offensive coordinator Mal Moore, who calls Shealy "probably the hardest working quarterback we've ever had."

Shealy has always been a fine running quarterback, as he demonstrates at left against Vanderbilt. He rushed for 323 yards last year, fifth best for the Tide.



Even Steadman's triceps get a workout when he uses the leg press machine to strengthen his knee. Determination like this has helped Shealy to return to action from the injury that some thought might end his football career.

we'll have a hard battle, beginning with Georgia Tech and going right on through the season. Like Coach Bryant says, everyone on our schedule has Alabama down as the team they'd like to beat most."

Steadman sees the offensive and defensive lines as real strengths of Bama's 1979 team. "We're a little thin almost everywhere, but we've got talent at every position," says Steadman. "Something else we've got is that our players have had good work habits over the summer. Just about everyone came to the second semester of summer school and worked out together getting ready for the season, which shows there's no complacency."

Unlike many, Steadman isn't worried about the quarterback situation. "I'm ahead of the others because I've got experience," says Steadman. "But those behind me just need experience and confidence. They can all play quarterback. The wishbone is such a complicated offense that I still struggle with it sometimes. The more games I played, the more comfortable I felt running it and that's the way it will be with them."

Those behind Steadman, not necessarily in this order, are Don Jacobs, Tommy Wilcox and Alan Gray. All are good athletes and Coach Bryant has indicated that they will see duty somewhere, even if not at quarterback. Jacobs and Wilcox can play in the secondary, while Gray can play running back or split end.

Steadman was recruited by Alabama (and virtually every other major football college) out of Dothan High, where he was a prep All-America. He quarterbacked his team to the state 4A championship finals both as a junior and senior and was named the Offensive Player of the Game for his performance in the 1975 state championship game, when he had 18 rushes for 100 yards and hit 11 of 19 passes for 138 yards and two touchdowns. As a senior, he hit 63 percent of his passes and had more than 1,200 yards passing, 800-plus yards rushing and was named team captain. He also lettered two years in basketball, three in baseball and three in track.

"I considered Auburn, Georgia and Mississippi State along with Alabama," remembers Steadman. "It's a big step in choosing a college, your whole future. I spent a Saturday with God and felt that I was directed to Alabama. I don't think there's any question I made the right decision. The fact that we have Coach Bryant seems to give Alabama that extra measure of class. And I liked the winning tradition; we play to learn, but we also play to win. Finally, I like being a student at Alabama. Your college is more than your football team and that's a strong point of the University of Alabama. I talk to high school students a lot about their college choice and I strongly recommend Alabama."

Steadman isn't sure what the future will bring after his playing days at Alabama. "For me to play pro football would be God working a miracle," he says laughing. "I'm not putting all my eggs in that basket. If that door opens up, great. If not, there will be others. I hope one day to coach or teach and I also hope to be able to continue sharing with others what God has meant to my life."

The latest in the Alabama line of quarterbacks, Steadman Shealy, is more than worthy of the honor. ★

(continued from page 15)
unoccupied he spent his time working on his passing and made great improvement. Behind him are talented athletes, although unfortunately they have minimal experience. Tommy Wilcox was probably the most impressive throughout the spring, but Alan Gray had an outstanding A-Day game, winning the Dixie Howell Memorial Award as the MVP. Don Jacobs has the most experience, as a non-lettering number three quarterback last year as well as having had two years experience with the junior varsity team. Jim Bob Harris got better than a fair shot at quarterback in the spring and no doubt has talent, but his value as a safetyman will probably put him back on defense.

The Defense

LEFT END Truly a strong point for Bama. Wayne Hamilton is considered one of the nation's top pro prospects and behind him is one of Bama's most durable and versatile players, Gary DeNiro. Hamilton played only part of last year because of a severe elbow injury sustained against Southern Cal, but he still was outstanding down the stretch. As with the other top Tide seniors, the chance of the big money of pro football should provide extra incentive for Wayne this year. Behind those two, and likely to see as much playing time as possible (particularly if DeNiro ends up at linebacker), is Mike Pitts, who was one of Bama's most improved performers this spring after having been redshirted as a freshman.

LEFT TACKLE This is the lone spot that Bama needs to replace a starter in the defensive line, but it's a big replacement since the missing man is Marty Lyons. There's little difference in technique at right and left tackle and noseguard positions in Alabama's defensive scheme, so there is likely to be some shifting of men in those three spots. Byron Braggs was starting at the right tackle spot at the end of last season, but he could end up at the left side this year, particularly if 1977 starting right tackle David Hannah has sufficiently recovered from double knee surgery of a year ago. But this brings up Braggs' own surgery, albeit minor, to remove a free body from his knee this summer. Past experience is that it will present no problem to his playing this year. Warren Lyles will be a top noseguard, but he could see duty at either tackle spot as well, and the same is true of Curtis McGriff. Scott Homan ranks as a promising newcomer at left tackle and Danny Casteel is a future at that spot.

NOSEGUARD Almost certainly either Warren Lyles or Curtis McGriff will start at this spot and the other will see plenty of duty either at a starting tackle spot or backing up one of the three down lineman positions. McGriff is going to be hard-pressed to win a starting job even though he is listed among the nation's top pro prospects as a defensive tackle. Jackie Cline is a backup candidate as noseguard as is one of the world's hardest working walk-ons, Richard Shinn.

RIGHT TACKLE This was the spot that David Hannah played so well as a sophomore in 1977. If he's physically able to perform here this season, it is very likely that he'll be the starter. The other combinations, using Braggs, McGriff and Lyles, are obvious now. Other right tackle candidates are junior Mike Inman, who has been foot injury prone, and redshirted freshman Joe Beazley.

RIGHT END Another very strong point for Alabama. E.J. Junior, who will be a junior this year, has unlimited potential. He's quick, strong and very smart. An experiment last spring to move him to

Right end E.J. Junior (39) sidesteps a block and prepares to make a stop that LSU's Charles Alexander will remember. Junior is Bama's leading returning tackler for 1979.

strong safety was not successful, which is unfortunate for the secondary but good for the line. Junior is Bama's leading returning tackler with 54 last year. He only made four individual tackles last year in the Sugar Bowl, and all came in the second half. But more importantly, all came behind the line of scrimmage. John Mauro suffered a knee injury last spring, but he's 100 percent well now and John is a striker.

STRONGSIDE LINEBACKER Linebacker, of course, was a position hard hit by graduation. Alabama has a couple of headhunters at the position, hard-striking Randy Scott and redshirted freshman Ricky Rozzell. Scott has a limited amount of experience. Rozzell, who suffered a crippling disease as a child and worked incredibly hard to overcome it, is not very fast. There's also a possibility that DeNiro, who has played end and noseguard already in his Alabama career, could see duty at strongside linebacker. David McCarty has junior varsity experience at the position.

WEAKSIDE LINEBACKER Alabama has little experience but great speed in the two young men vying for the starting job here. Sophomore Thomas Boyd had just enough playing time at linebacker and on the specialty teams to letter last year (making a respectable 26 tackles). Robbie Jones, a redshirted freshman, had a very good spring.

LEFT HALFBACK Don McNeal is one of the most underrated football players in the nation, an outstanding cornerback who only rarely receives mention on all-star lists. He's got great speed, intelligence and is a hard-hitter. He had a clutch interception in the end zone against Penn State last January, and opponents rarely challenge his side. Behind him are Bobby Smith, who is coming off knee surgery, and walk-on Prince Colley, who was impressive in the spring.

RIGHT HALFBACK This was a weak Bama point last year and is a questionable spot going into 1979. Ricky Tucker could move from safety to right halfback (as he did for the Tennessee game last year) or Mike Clements, who had the great game-clinching interception and return against Penn State in the Sugar Bowl and followed that up with a strong spring, could be the man at this spot. Bobby Smith could also play on this side and redshirted freshmen Jerrill Sprinkle and Josh Henderson are also possibilities.

John Mauro (94) and Gary DeNiro catch Florida's Joe Portale in the backfield and convincingly offer him a seat, while the Gator quarterback watches in the background.

Fullback Steve Whitman absorbs a blow by an Auburn defensive player and keeps his balance to gain a few extra yards. Whitman's strength makes him a devastating blocker and allowed Billy Jackson to shift to left halfback this fall.

STRONG SAFETY Another spot that's somewhat up in the air. It could be that one of the two safetymen from last year, Ricky Tucker or Jim Bob Harris, could end up here, Harris being the more likely. Or a couple of offensive performers who worked there in the spring, quarterback Tommy Wilcox or running back Ben Orcutt, could be strong safeties. Bobby Marks has a questionable knee and David Reeves has been injury-plagued. It's very unlikely that E.J. Junior would be moved back to this spot.

SAFETY The two men who started for Bama here last year are both back, Jim Bob Harris and Ricky Tucker. There's a possibility that neither will play here in 1979, although that must be considered a remote possibility since it's such an important position. Benny Perrin is in the picture at safety, as is Don Jacobs, who has worked the last two springs in the second-

Above: Don McNeal demonstrates one of the hazards of special team work as he risks his head to nearly block an LSU punt. McNeal is also an outstanding cornerback.

Below: It would take an exceptional punter to drop Woody Umphrey from the starting lineup. His high boots allow few opposing kick return specialists to demonstrate their skills.

ary even though his playing time has been at quarterback in the fall.

The overall secondary picture is probably this: Don McNeal is set at left halfback. Everything else is undecided. Best bet is that the other three starters will be Mike Clements at right half, Jim Bob Harris at strong safety and Ricky Tucker at safety, but even as a best bet that's not a very sure thing.

The Kicking Game

Coach Bryant has said over and over that the kicking game ranks among the most important parts of football and as a result the Tide puts a lot of effort into its specialty teams. The kickers are only a part of the kicking game. The coverage and return men will be the fastest available.

PUNTER It's very unlikely that Woody Umphrey will not retain his job as Bama punter. Last year Woody averaged 39.4 yards per punt on his 56 punts, but the most impressive part is that he kicked the ball too high for returns. Bama opponents returned only 14 punts and those for a measley total of 25 yards all last season (the Tide, by comparison, returned 23 punts for 188 yards). Woody also gets the ball away quickly, lessening the chance of a block. And not to be forgotten (and won't be by opponents), Woody showed in the LSU game last year that he may not always punt, as he rifled a pass to Lou Ikner to keep alive a crucial touchdown drive. If Woody falters there are a number of possibles, not the least of whom is 1977 punter Buddy Holt. Don Jacobs is also a possibility, as is Tommy Wilcox.

PLACEKICKER Duties are likely to be divided here. Alan McElroy, who did most of the placekicking last year and led Bama in scoring, is back and far-and-away the leading candidate for field goals and extra points. He doesn't have real long range capability, but with the rule change that brings missed field goal attempts outside the 20-yard line back to the line of scrimmage, Bama would be inclined not to try a long field goal unless it was a matter of scoring in the final moments of the second or fourth quarters. Johnny Brooker is McElroy's top challenger for the job on extra points and field goals. Brooker is a nephew of former Tide and pro placekicker Tommy Brooker, who works with Bama kickers as a volunteer coach. Kickoff responsibilities are likely to fall to Timmy Clark, who wowed Bama fans with his long, high boots before being injured in midseason. During the spring A-Day game, Timmy kicked off through the goalposts with no helping

INJURY UPDATE

The 1979 University of Alabama football team opened drills August 16 with a number of Crimson Tiders being checked for their recuperation programs on old injuries. Going into fall work, here is how some of the more prominent players are doing:

BYRON BRAGGS, minor summer leg surgery, was expected to be limited early.

MITCH FERGUSON, who missed last year with a chronic pulled hamstring, is expected to be 100 percent.

JAMES HANEY, who had his second knee operation since coming to Alabama last fall, has to be considered questionable and a determination on his availability will be made based on early fall workouts.

DAVID HANNAH, who had double knee surgery last year and missed almost all of last season, has apparently had good recuperation and is expected to be ready to go this fall.

JIM BOB HARRIS, who suffered a shoulder injury in spring work, did not have surgery and is expected to be participating fully.

GREG HAYNES, who had a severe knee injury and resulting surgery last spring, is out indefinitely despite good recuperation.

BART KROUT, who suffered a broken kneecap against Tennessee last year, has made good progress and is expected to be able to participate, although early season practice work may be limited.

BOBBY MARKS, who has a knee injury, will be tested in early fall work to determine if he can participate fully or if surgery will be necessary.

JOHN MAURO, who suffered a knee injury in spring work, did not require surgery and is 100 percent.

DAVID REEVES, who suffered a knee injury last fall, did not require further surgery and is expected to be able to participate.

BILL SEARCEY, who suffered a broken ankle in a water skiing accident in late summer, will be lost until at least midseason.

BOBBY SMITH, who had knee surgery last winter, seems to be making a fine recovery and will start into fall drills with his work load to be determined by his early work.

RICKY TUCKER, who pulled a hamstring last fall and reinjured it severely just before the Sugar Bowl game, appears to be 100 percent recovered.

Right: Running back Billy Jackson is caught in mid-air as he pulls away from an Auburn defender.

wind. He also had a long field goal in the final spring scrimmage, but in all honesty, it looked like a dying duck.

The Freshmen

No freshmen were included in a look at any position, but past experience has shown that several incoming Crimson Tiders are likely to make a contribution. Some of the top prospects, such as Steve Mott of New Orleans, may not be a factor in competition for a varsity job simply because the positions they play are packed with experienced men.

However, if one had to guess at the freshmen most likely to contribute they would probably be:

Al Blue, Mike Landrum and Kenneth Simon would be considered leading candidates to see action in the secondary, where there is a lack of depth. Simon, the speedster who broke Richmond Flowers' Alabama high school record in the hurdles, might also be looked at as a kick return specialist. That same depth situation will favor linebacker Roosevelt Hill, although he could also be in the picture at strong safety. Jeff Fagan and Roosevelt Wilder are generally considered Bama's top running back prospects and that's another position that doesn't have the depth the Tide would like. ★

Right: Wayne Hamilton (84), Curtis McGriff (96) and Byron Braggs (47) put the Alabama squeeze on a Virginia Tech victim. Below: Concentration is at its peak on the part of the blocker (Braggs), the holder (Kevin Jones) and the placekicker (Alan McElroy) during this field goal attempt last season.

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ALABAMA'S FIRST ALL-AMERICA

Bully Van de Graaff

In this day and time it is not unusual for one of Alabama's numerous All-Americas to have been a high school All-America or at least an All-State performer.

Alabama's first All-America wasn't anything in high school but a student.

In 1912, a 16-year-old giant of a youth named W. T. "Bully" Van de Graaff walked out of a private Tuscaloosa high school that had no football program onto the football field at Alabama to join two brothers (Adrian and Hargrove) who were on the team.

When he graduated four years later, he left a lot of upset coaches and crying fans.

When the *Birmingham News — Age-Herald* conducted a poll in 1943 to choose Alabama's All-Time Football 11, Van de Graaff easily captured one of the tackle spots. Those who saw him play and lived many years to tell about it say Bully could have been a starter on any Alabama team there has ever been.

When Bully Van de Graaff played football, no one had ever heard of specialization. Van de Graaff played offense and defense at the tackle spot, executed the tackle-around run to perfection, kicked off, punted, handled the field goal and extra point chores and even did the tackle pass with a great deal of accuracy.

Van de Graaff won his All-America honors in 1916 along with a pair of All-Southern honors and was listed as a tackle, but it was his kicking duties that the fans and the newspaper headlines loved.

One newspaper writer who evidently never studied unbiased reporting said Van de Graaff "had the best proportioned body of any male on the University of Alabama campus" and throughout his career "never failed to register a field goal when the ball was held true."

Bully's best-remembered performance came against then-powerhouse Sewanee when the Alabama team beat the Tigers 23-10 to stop a Sewanee domination of 18 straight wins.

He got his squad out of trouble early when, standing five yards deep in his end zone, he punted dead on the Tigers' 15. He added three field goals to put Alabama ahead, and when things were getting close again, he slapped a pass away from the quarterback. The ball fell into his arms and he raced 65 yards for a score.

He added that point after and then another when a teammate scored.

When the dust had cleared, Bully Van de Graaff had personally scored 17 of Alabama's 23 points and defeated Sewanee.

Van de Graaff had other fine games, too. Against Mississippi College he had field goals of 40, 45 and two from 30, plus a barely missed on a 54-yarder that struck the crossbar.

He beat Tennessee with two field goals in a 6-0 game and had three against Tulane to win that one. Against Georgia Tech, Bully pulled from his guard position, caught a pitchout and threw a touchdown pass.

Van de Graaff's last game came against the University of Mississippi and it was "Bully Van de Graaff Day." With fans wearing buttons carrying his name, he bowed out to newspapers headlines everywhere proclaiming "Van de Graaff Best In South" and "Bully Recognized Best Alabama Athlete Ever."

One sportswriter went so far as to request the University put up a statue in his honor. When his final season was over, Van de Graaff had personally scored 67 of Alabama's 194 points that season, including 13 field goals.

He had numerous punts over 70 yards throughout the final year and he finished with a 55-yard punting average.

Rules were different in those days, and Van de Graaff went to West Point to play football, but a knee injury ended his career.

He returned to Alabama and coached under Xen Scott and Wallace Wade and later became head coach and athletic director at Colorado College. In a 1975 interview, Van de Graaff said he planned to spend the rest of his years in Colorado. He died early in 1977.

Alabama got him back for a night in 1970 when he was inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame. Zipp Newman, the late sports editor of the *Birmingham Age-Herald* and one who often saw Bully play, probably said it best.

"I have seen all of the South's great tackles, but never one who contributed more to his team as a tackle, then a kicker, and lastly, a brutal runner, with high knee action that knocked out would-be tacklers."

— Mike Bolton

"I have seen all of the South's great tackles, but never one who contributed more to his team as a tackle, then a kicker, and lastly, a brutal runner . . ."

Right: Just a few of his accomplishments are featured in this display honoring Bully Van de Graaff, Alabama's first All-America football player.

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BAMA SCORECARD

Tennessee Likely

ABC-TV has announced only the Georgia Tech game at 4:50 p.m. EDT on September 8 from Atlanta for an Alabama television appearance in football this year, but the Tide will almost certainly get another date. Best guess at this point is the Tennessee game in Birmingham October 20.

Two Get NFL Chance

Two former Crimson Tide football players are getting a chance with National Football League teams as free agents. Offensive guard Lou Green (1974-77) was invited to training camp with the Green Bay Packers, while defensive back Tyrone King (1972-75) was given an opportunity with the Atlanta Falcons. Both were spotted by NFL scouts while performing with the minor league Alabama Vulcans in Birmingham.

Seven Years of Plenty

Can any other major college football team make this claim? Alabama will play 11 football opponents in 1979 and none of those 11 have defeated Bama in at least seven years. Of course, two of those 11 are teams that Bama has never played, Baylor and Wichita State. Bama has not played Georgia Tech in 15 years, since 1964. Tech's last win was in 1962, Bama winning in 1963 and 1964 and holding an overall 24-19-3 edge in the series; Vanderbilt's last win was in 1969, Alabama winning nine in a row and holding an overall 35-17-4 advantage; Florida last won in 1963 (Bama's only loss in Tuscaloosa under Coach Bryant) and the Tide has won six in a row and holds an overall advantage of 15-5; Tennessee last won 24-0 in 1970, Bama having won eight in a row and holding a 31-23-7 advantage; Virginia Tech has never beaten Alabama in nine meetings; Alabama has an amazing string of 21 consecutive victories over Mississippi State, the Bulldogs' last win coming in 1957 by 25-13, and Bama holds a 50-10-3 advantage in the series; LSU has fallen eight straight years to the Tide to give Alabama a 28-10-4 advantage in the series, LSU's last victory coming 14-9 in 1970; Miami last defeated the Tide 34-12 in 1955, with Alabama having won the last nine meetings and holding a 12-2 edge in the series; the latest victory by a 1979 opponent was by Auburn, which upset the Tide 17-16 in 1972, giving Bama six straight wins and an all-time series lead of 25-17-1.

Ogilvie on TV

Junior Bama running back Major Ogilvie was selected by the NCAA to be seen on nationwide television public service announcements warning young people of the dangers of drug abuse. Major spent a few days in Phoenix, Arizona, making the spots, which are sponsored by the Fiesta Bowl. The proceeds from the Fiesta Bowl go to programs for drug abuse prevention.

McNair Resigns

Kirk McNair, Alabama sports information director, a member of the Crimson Tide staff for nine years, resigned that position this summer to join LeDuc Enterprises, Inc., as editor of **'BAMA** magazine.

Tickets Available

Football tickets for in-state games other than Auburn and Tennessee (Baylor September 22, Wichita State October 6, Virginia Tech October 27, Mississippi State November 3 and Miami November 17, all in Tuscaloosa except Baylor) are available at $10 each by writing the Athletic Ticket Office, P.O. Box U, University, Alabama 35486. Checks should be made out to the University of Alabama and include an additional $1 per order (not ticket) for postage and handling.

Tide Press Guides

As long as the supply lasts, Alabama's 1979 Football Press Guide is available to the public ($3 each) by writing the Sports Information Office, P.O. Box U, University, Alabama 35486.

— Kirk McNair

Tyrone King, former Alabama cornerback from Docena, Ala., is trying out with the Atlanta Falcons of the NFL.

AROUND THE LEAGUE

DATE	ALABAMA	AUBURN	FLORIDA	GEORGIA	KENTUCKY
Sept. 8	at Georgia Tech				
Sept. 15		KANSAS STATE	at Houston	WAKE FOREST	MIAMI (OH.)
Sept. 22	BAYLOR (B)	S. MISS	GEORGIA TECH	at Clemson	at Indiana
Sept. 29	at Vanderbilt	at Tennessee	at Miss. State	S. CAROLINA	MARYLAND
Oct. 6	WICHITA STATE (T)	N.C. STATE	at LSU	at Ole Miss	at W. Virginia
Oct. 13	at Florida	VANDERBILT	ALABAMA	LSU	OLE MISS
Oct. 20	TENNESSEE (B)	at Georgia Tech		at Vanderbilt	at LSU
Oct. 27	VIRGINIA TECH (T)	at Wake Forest	TULSA	KENTUCKY	at Georgia
Nov. 3	MISSISSIPPI ST. (T)	FLORIDA	at Auburn	VIRGINIA	BOWLING GREEN
Nov. 10	at LSU	MISSISSIPPI ST.	GEORGIA (J)	at Florida (J)	at Vanderbilt
Nov. 17	MIAMI (T)	at Georgia	KENTUCKY	AUBURN	at Florida
Nov. 24					TENNESSEE
Dec. 1	AUBURN (B)	at Alabama (B)	at Miami	at Georgia Tech	

DATE	LSU	OLE MISS	MISS. STATE	TENNESSEE	VANDERBILT
Sept. 8			MEMPHIS ST. (J)		
Sept. 15	at Colorado	at Memphis St.		at Boston College	at Indiana
Sept. 22	RICE	MISSOURI (J)	at Maryland	UTAH	CITADEL
Sept. 29	SOUTHERN CAL	S. MISS. (J)	FLORIDA (J)	AUBURN	ALABAMA
Oct. 6	FLORIDA	GEORGIA (O)	at Tennessee	at Miss. St.	at Tulane
Oct. 13	at Georgia	at Kentucky	at Florida St.	GEORGIA TECH	at Auburn
Oct. 20	KENTUCKY	at S. Carolina	MARSHALL (S)	at Alabama (B)	GEORGIA
Oct. 27	FLORIDA STATE	VANDERBILT (O)	S. MISS. (S)		at Ole Miss (O)
Nov. 3	at Ole Miss	LSU (J)	at Alabama (T)	RUTGERS	MEMPHIS ST.
Nov. 10	ALABAMA	at Tulane	at Auburn	NOTRE DAME	KENTUCKY
Nov. 17	MISSISSIPPI ST.	TENNESSEE (J)	at LSU	at Ole Miss (J)	at Air Force
Nov. 24	at Tulane	at Miss. St. (J)	OLE MISS (J)	at Kentucky	
Dec. 1				VANDERBILT	at Tennessee

1978 FINAL STANDINGS	Conference	Overall
Alabama	6-0-0	10-1-0
Georgia	5-0-1	9-1-1
Auburn	3-2-1	6-4-1
LSU	3-3-0	8-3-0
Tennessee	3-3-0	5-5-1
Florida	3-3-0	4-7-0
Kentucky	2-4-0	4-6-1
Ole Miss	2-4-0	5-6-0
Miss. State	2-4-0	6-5-0
Vanderbilt	0-6-0	2-9-0

Title Chase

Defending national champion Alabama is still the team to beat in the Southeastern Conference. Georgia probably has its most talented team in a decade. Look for Ole Miss to have a great year under sophomore Coach Steve Sloan. With running backs James Brooks and Joe Cribbs returning to the Auburn backfield, Coach Doug Barfield should have an exciting year on the plain. Tennessee and Florida are the darkhorses this season. The sophomore-filled Vols won four of their last five games a year ago, while the Gators are regrouping under former Clemson Coach Charley Pell. Charlie McClendon's Bengal Tigers have offensive problems which should keep them in the bottom half of the league. Emory Bellard, new head coach at Mississippi State, has depth problems. Vandy has speed in Frank Mordica and a new coach in George MacIntyre while Kentucky has just six starters returning for 1979.

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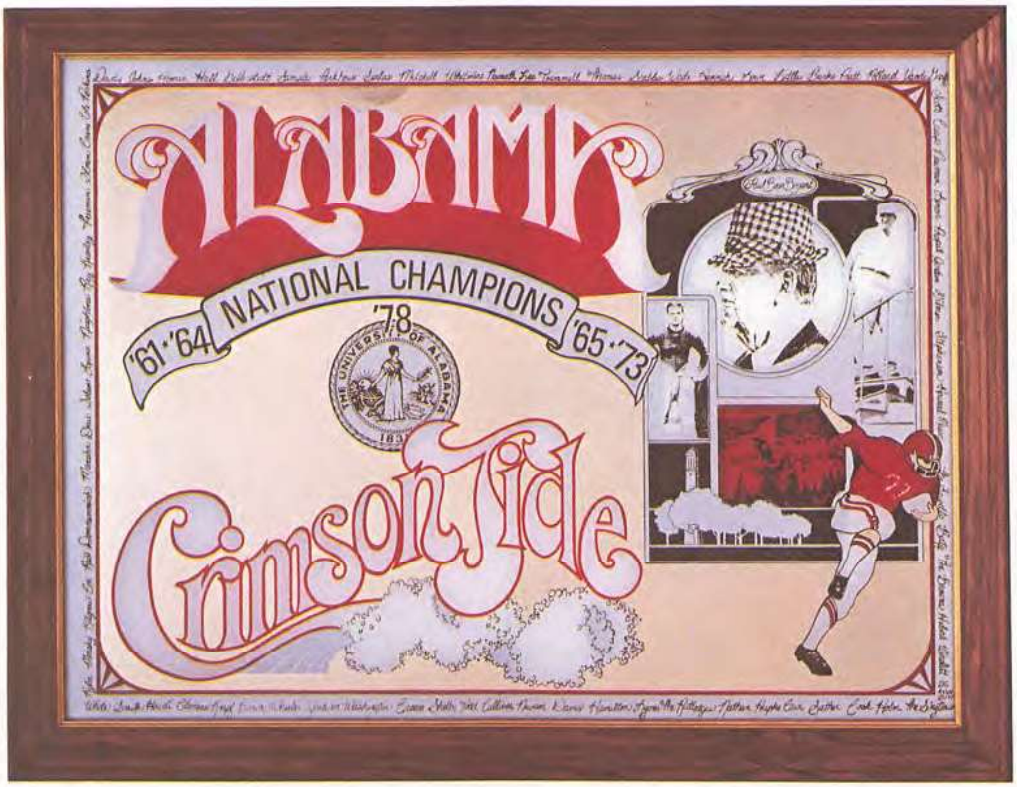

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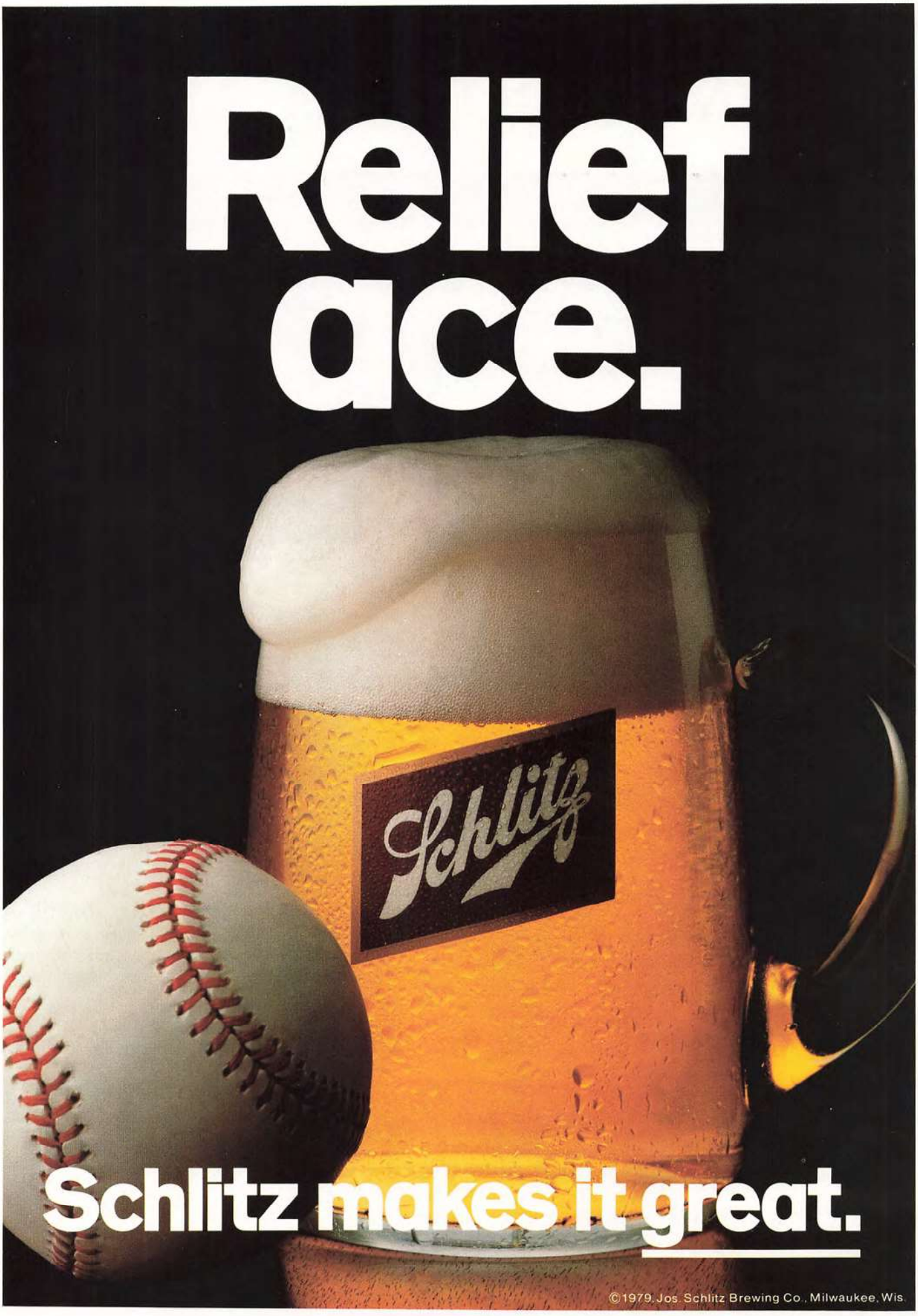
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